

SENATE WATCH

A summary of today's Senate actions; published daily when the Senate is in session.

6/10/03

FINAL PASSAGE

SB 230 (BERNERO)

SB 230 amends current law to allow for condemned, vacant and/or boarded buildings, specifically in the core cities, to be demolished after 24 months. (Currently, some designated buildings have been awaiting demolition for 10 years.) The bill provides that they may, not must, be demolished after 24 months.

Support: Michigan Municipal League, Realtors, Michigan Township Association, SEMCOG.

• SB 230 passed [RC 195:38 yes, 0 no].

SB 362 (Cassis)

The bill would amend current law (which requires the Governor to report certain tax expenditure items with his or her annual budget message to the Legislature) to remove references to tax "expenditure items" and instead require the Governor to report tax "credits, deductions, and exemptions."

- SB 362 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.
- Brater 1 (3 amends) was defeated [no RC]. This would have added the word "loopholes" to the items on which the Governor must report.
- SB 362 passed [RC 192: 32 yes, 6 no].

HB 4083 (SHELTROWN)

The bill would require the State to subordinate its interest in a recorded farmland development rights agreement (FDRA), or an open space development rights easement, to a subsequently recorded mortgage lien, lease, or interest, under certain conditions. This would provide an affected landowner with the opportunity to refinance an existing mortgage or seek a new mortgage without the interference of the state's interest in the property.

Support: Michigan Department of Agriculture, Michigan Farm Bureau.

• HB 4083 passed with IE [RC 197:38 yes, 0 no].

HB 4087 (Moolenaar)

HB 4087 would allow small well owners to submit complaints to the Department of Environmental Quality or to Michigan Department of Agriculture – for an agricultural complaint - if the small quantity well has failed to

furnish the well's normal supply of water or potable water and the owner has a credible reason to believe the well's problems are due to a high capacity well.

The effective date of the act would require the DEQ to identify 2 counties in the state and the act would only be administered in those 2 counties (the counties are presumed to be Saginaw and Monroe). The act would go statewide July 1, 2004.

DEQ estimates the bill will cost \$1.5 million dollars for the state to investigate, settle, etc. these complaints..

Support: Jonesfield Township, Commissioner Robert Blaine (Saginaw County), Commissioner Suzanne Derry (Gratiot County), Saginaw County Health Department, Lakefield Township Supervisor, Marion Township Supervisor, National Wildlife Federation, Michigan Chamber of Commerce, Michigan Manufacturers Association, Consumers Energy, Trout Unlimited.

Oppose: DEQ, Potato Growers Association, Michigan Townships Association (unless municipal water systems are excluded from the bill).

- Brater 1 (S-6) was defeated [RC 193: 17 yes, 21 no]. This would make sure there are adequate funds for the state to process the complaints which will result from this bill.
- HB 4087 passed [RC 194: 24 yes, 14 no (Dems)]. Immediate Effect was not given to the bill [no RC].

HB 4310 (Meyer)

House Bill 4310 amends current law by providing an exemption to the Freedom of Information Act for anyone reporting a violation, or an alleged violation of the Grain Dealers Act.

Support: Michigan Department of Agriculture, Michigan Farm Bureau.

• HB 4310 passed with IE [RC 196: 38 yes, 0 no].

HB 4511 (Pappageorge)

The bill would: 1) Extend the period of time that the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) has to consider a proposed rule. 2) Extend the period of time that a notice of objection stays the ability of the Office of Regulatory Reform (ORR) to file a rule. 3) Extend the time period for JCAR to consider a resubmitted rule. 4) Require the ORR to publish an agency's report on its website. 5) Require an agency to transmit or mail a copy of a proposed rule to people who presented data on the rule.

Support: Michigan Municipal League.

Opposed: Granholm administration -- The extended time requirements make a long process even longer. Giving the legislature the added review time could greatly hinder an agency's ability to effectively carry out its functions.

• HB 4511 passed [RC 198: 24 yes, 14 no (Dems)].

THIRD READING

SB 352 (THOMAS)

This designates March 31 of each year as Cesar E. Chavez day in Michigan. Mr. Chavez was born on March 31, 1927 (died April 23, 1993). A giant of the labor movement, he founded the United Farm Workers. He traveled often to Michigan, and several committee witnesses spoke of their work with him on labor and justice issues.

- THOMAS 1 (S-1) was adopted [no RC]. Technical change: Adds the middle initial ("E.") to Mr. Chavez's name.
- SB 352 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

SB 530 (Sanborn)

Senate Bill 530 would name M-53 (between 27 Mile Road and 34 Mile Road) in Macomb County the "POW/MIA Memorial Freeway."

• SB 530 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

HB 4330 (Woronchak)

The bill would allow the spouse of a former prisoner of war to obtain a special registration plate; and limit the number of EX-POW registration plates to one person in any household.

• HB 4330 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

HB 4333 (Accavitti)

The bill would increase the penalty for illegally parking in a space for the disabled. Under current law, a person who parks illegally in a space reserved for persons with disabilities is responsible for a civil infraction and must pay a fine of between \$50 and \$100, in addition to the plaintiff's costs in connection with the action. The bill would increase the fine to a minimum of \$100 and a maximum of \$250.

- Committee 1 (1 amend) was adopted [no RC]. This adds an effective date of 10/1/03.
- HB 4333 was moved to 3rd Reading.